

# Kathleen, the Embassadress

By Alan Sanders

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"Come in!" My office door opened very gently, and a little face I knew well peeped round. In sheer astonishment I dropped my pen.

"Kathleen!" I said. "How in the world did you get down here? You're not by yourself, surely?"

"Oh, no; course, nurse's with me," and the blue eyes smiled at me so sweetly; "but she's gone shopping. I'm not to go till she comes for me."

"But what will mother and auntie say? They'll think you're lost."

"I'm too grown-up to get lost," she said, with a dignified little air.

I could not help smiling.

"Now, you little rogue," I said, "when I've helped you off with that pretty blue coat and hat I shall expect to be told why you've honored me with a visit to the city in business hours."

She settled herself sedately in a chair opposite to me, quite unconscious of the pretty picture she made with her mass of fair hair and sweet little face.

"It's a most 'portant visit," she said. "I've come to ask you to my party next We'n'sday."

"Indeed? I shall be delighted to come. So that's what brought you down here, is it?"

I had heard great tales about this party, but not from Kathleen. This was evidently her surprise for me.

"Shall I be expected to do anything in particular?" I asked.

"You'll have to make believe all the time, like you always do at our house."

This was certainly a candid statement. I wondered if the rest of the family shared the same view. I hoped not, because I was as a rule

particularly serious after Kathleen had gone to bed.

"Auntie Merva will be there, of course," I ventured to suggest.

"Course she will," replied Kathleen.

Then she made a tour of the room, came back and resumed her seat, and asked me seriously: "Is this where you play all by yourself in the daytime?"

"Well, yes, I suppose I do."

"Do you keep your toys in those big tin boxes?"

"Well, they're not toys like those in your nursery."

"Do you sit here all by yourself, then?"

I nodded.

"And never feel lonely?"

"Sometimes," I said, smiling in spite of myself at the serious little face.

"I heard mummy tell daddy one day you were a lonely man."

"Oh!"

I was certainly hearing some home truths.

"But you won't be lonely when you come to my party, will you?"

"No, dear. I like to come as often as I can to your house," and I spoke the truth.

By this time Kathleen's nurse had returned—I expect she had been waiting outside all the time—and with strict injunctions "not to forget the party next We'n'sday," my little visitor kissed me good-bye, and I tried to settle down to work again.

But a pair of blue eyes would keep dancing in front of me on my blotting pad. Sometimes I thought they were Kathleen's, and sometimes I thought they were—some one else's. Kathleen's eyes and her Aunt Merva's were strangely alike. I had noticed it before.

The room seemed quite cheerless now that she had gone.

FOOD PRODUCTION IS LARGE

United States Leads the World in the Fertility of its Soil.

From the official and trade reports of various countries a writer has recently compiled statistics from which he draws the deduction that the United States produces annually larger quantities of nearly all the staple agricultural articles than any other country, and in many instances more than all others combined.

According to the writer, the United States produces per year more corn than all other countries—2,927,000,000 bushels out of 3,888,000,000; more wheat—634,000,000 out of 7,180,000,000 bushels; more wheat flour than all other countries combined—15,000,000 out of 26,000,000 bushels; more oats than any other country—754,000,000 out of 2,852,000,000 bushels; more cotton than all other lands—13,000,000 out of 20,000,000 bales; and more flaxseed than any other country—25,000,000 out of 27,000,000 bushels.

It is also the largest exporter in the world of oilcake and oilcake meal—2,063,000,000 out of 4,813,000,000 pounds; of rosin—717,000,000 out of 846,000,000 pounds; and of turpentine—16,000,000 out of 24,000,000 gallons.

This country has 22,244,466 more dairy cows, 23,000,532 more horses, 4,056,399 more mules, 57,976,361 more swine and (except British India) 73,246,573 more cattle than any other country in the world.

Among other great crops of the United States are 308,038,000 bushels of potatoes, 529,400,000 pounds of rice, 827,256,430 pounds of manufactured beet sugar, and hay to the value of \$743,000,000.

It certainly is.

"Most people," remarked the thoughtful thinker, "take life seriously."

"Well, there's no reason why they should not," replied the matter-of-fact person. "Taking life is a serious matter."

THE YANKEE PRODIGAL SON.

Boy Leaves Home Penniless, Returns with Fatted Calf.

Ware, Mass.—Unlike the prodigal son who returned to eat his father's calf, Arthur Owens, the 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Owens of this town, who disappeared the night of May 11, penniless and with only the clothes he wore, returned to his home at 11 o'clock one Sunday night recently, and brought the fatted calf with him in the shape of a pair of four-year-old steers weighing more than 3,000 pounds. He also brought a

brand-new dump-cart and about \$300 as a peace offering.

The boy says that when he left home it was with a determination to convince his father that he could do better if allowed to have his own way in the matter of trading than by spending all of his time tilling the soil. His first few days were of a strenuous nature. Being without funds, he felt the pangs of hunger many times, but after traveling several days he met Fred Foster, a lumberman and cattle dealer of Warner, N. H., who gave him a job driving cattle from place to place and allowed him to trade on his own account. For his first week's wages he took a yearling heifer, and before he reached the next town he had traded it for a carriage. The carriage was hitched behind the team that followed the cattle, and was sold before he had gone five miles further for about four times what the heifer cost him. This was the beginning of his trading after he left home, and he continued to trade until he thought he had enough to convince his father that he knew his business. Mr. Owens says he is convinced. The trip took nearly a week, and the boy says they averaged 28 miles a day.

IS YOUNGEST JUDGE.

Richard J. Higgins Elected to Bench Though Only 25 Years Old.

Topeka, Kan.—The youngest member of the judiciary in the United States probably is Richard J. Higgins, 25 years old, who was elected judge of the court of common pleas in Wyandotte county, Kansas, to fill the unexpired term of Judge William G. Holt.

He was born May 14, 1883, in Kansas City, Kan., where he now is living. He spent two years in the University of Kansas and then took the course in the Kansas City School of Law.

The young judge has some strict ideas as to the dignity of a court of record. "I shall allow no smoking in my courtroom, either by the court or by the members of the bar, while a case is on trial," he said, on taking the oath of office. "Another thing I shall not tolerate is the practice of attorneys who sit with feet propped up on the tables in the courtroom while the court is in session."

Thoughts Upon the College Yell.

The college yell is a senseless thing of crazy words tied on a string, a mixture of excited sounds in some cerebral junk found; a blend of yow and slunk boom ah with yip and yow and rah rah rah; and fathers who send sons to school to master all the rote and rule, to delve in logarithmic maze and spread all knowledge to their gaze, ask why their sons learn all this fuss, while differential calculus and the binomial theorem remain an utter blank to them—but you can bet the fathers seem delighted when the football team to which their sons belong makes good; oh, then the fathers (as they should) arise and let their whisks float upon the wind that fans each throat, and whoop and shout and roar and yell the softest savage cry we tell. The fathers, bland and full of guile, have known that class yell all the while!—Chicago Post.

Origin of Muslin.

This favorite material of the "summer girl" derives its name from being first made at Mosul or Mossul, a town in Turkish Asia. From there it was introduced into India, and first brought to England in 1670. A few years afterward it was manufactured in large quantities in France and England, and in the present day English-made muslin rival in fineness the most delicate of gauzy muslins made in India.

FEEDING TESTS MADE WITH A DAIRY HERD

Results of Investigations by the Wisconsin Experiment Station Under Direction of George C. Humphrey, Animal Husbandman.

The present Wisconsin university dairy herd was established in 1898, since when complete records of the feed consumption and the production of milk and butter fat for all of the cows have been kept. The herd numbers about 30 milch cows, all but two pure-breds, the following dairy breeds being represented therein: Jerseys, Guernseys, Holsteins, Ayrshires, and Brown Swisses. It is maintained primarily for instructional and research purposes, but it is aimed to have it return as much revenue as possible under the conditions present, through the sale of milk and cream and of surplus stock. The former purposes necessarily prevent the herd from making as high and economical production as it might if it were conducted wholly on a commercial basis.

In the management of the herd it has been our practice to surround the cows with the conditions best suited

for a large and economical production of milk and butter. During the entire winter period the cows were confined in comfortable stalls in the barn, except for a short time on dry, warm days, when they were allowed to exercise in the yard. They were watered twice daily in cement troughs in the barn and were not turned out on cold days for at least a couple of hours after watering. The following daily schedule of work in the dairy barn shows the system of management of the cows during the winter period:

Daily Schedule of Work in Dairy Barn

4:00 a. m.—Grain fed.

4:15 a. m.—Cows milked.

6:30 a. m.—Silage fed.

7:30 a. m.—Cows watered.

8:00 a. m.—Stables cleaned and bedded.

9:00 a. m.—Hay fed.

10:00 a. m.—Cows groomed.

11:45 a. m.—Cows turned out.

2:00 p. m.—Stables cleaned.

3:30 p. m.—Cows watered.

4:00 p. m.—Grain fed.

4:15 p. m.—Cows milked.

6:00 p. m.—Silage fed.

Fresh heavy milkers were milked three times a day, viz., at 4:00 and 11:30 a. m., and at 7:30 p. m.

The roughage fed to the cows during the winter periods consisted of corn silage and mixed hay, largely timothy and clover, with occasional

feeding of roots (sugar beets). The grain was made up of a variety of different feeds: wheat bran, corn meal, distillers' grains, oats, oil meal and brewers' grains, the first three being fed throughout the period, and the others at times in smaller quantities.

The standard grain mixture fed during the past year was made up of wheat bran, corn meal and distillers' grains, in the proportion of 3:4:3, the nutritive ratio of the mixture being 1:4.6. The general practice followed was to feed as many pounds of grain daily per cow as she produced pounds of butter fat during the week, i. e., seven times as much grain as the amount of fat produced daily (or one-quarter to one-third as much grain as the amount of milk given, according to its quality). The cows received in addition to this allowance of concentrates, as much silage and hay as they could eat up clean, the amounts eaten varying according with the feeding capacity of the different cows, 25 to 45 pounds of silage and four to six pounds of hay being the usual amounts eaten daily.

Keep Corn Knife Sharp.—Keep the corn knife sharp and do not try to cut off the stalks with a knife as dull as a hoe. It takes but a few minutes to grind it and thus save much strength.

Try Whole Wheat.—If your flock is all run down in egg production, just try whole wheat for one ration a day. Feed it in the morning, warming it nicely.

Sell the Old Ewes.—Fatten old ewes and sell them to the butcher. It won't pay to winter them, and don't let the sheep remain out in cold rains.

sin with a piece of clean cloth large enough to dip into the water (c) at

Count out 50 or 100 seeds of the kind to be tested, and place them in a plate between two folds of moistened cotton flannel or thin blotting paper. On a slip of white paper record the variety, number of seeds, and the date, then place it on the edge of the plate. Cover the whole with another plate or a pane of glass to prevent too rapid evaporation of moisture. Set the plate in a warm room (68 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit), and examine the seeds every 24 hours for six or eight days. If they get too dry add enough water to moisten, not saturate, the cloth or blotting paper. At the end of the test count the sprouted seeds and from them determine what percentage of the whole number of seeds are good. With large seeds no difficulty will be experienced in using the folds of cotton flannel but with small seeds the blotting paper is better. Another seed tester is made by inverting a small tin basin (b) in a larger basin (a) and covering the small ba-

each end. Place seeds on the cloth and cover with another cloth, as shown at d, e.

Devices for Seed Testing.

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